

B<sup>1</sup> comprising the steps of copolymerizing trioxane with a cyclic ether using a cationic initiator in such a ratio that the resulting copolymer comprises oxyethylene units as structural units in an amount of from 1.5 to 2.5 mol%, removing unconverted monomers, initiator residues and unstable end groups by dissolving and heating the resulting copolymer in a water/methanol/trioxane mixture, melting the polymer, mixing with additives and producing pellets therefrom, and injection molding said pellets to a shaped article.

REMARKS

The present application has been carefully studied and amended in view of the outstanding Office action dated December 17, 2001 and reconsideration of that Action is requested in view of the following comments.

A petition for a two-month extension of time accompanies this response together with the appropriate fee. Accordingly, the deadline for responding to the Office Action has been extended until May 17, 2002, and this response is therefore timely filed since it was deposited in the mail for First Class Delivery Service on the date certified on the front page hereof.

Claims 1, 4 and 11 have been canceled in favor of new claim 12. Although claim 12 is written in process format, it is believed that the recited process is within the scope of the product claims and therefore directed to a similar invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 12 defines patentable subject matter which is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art for the reasons expressed below. Specifically, claim 12 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by any one of Walker US